UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/471
18 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 JUNE 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention, with specific reference to the question of an enhanced presence of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Eastern Slavonia (Croatia), a statement by the Ministers of the OSCE Troika issued at Copenhagen on 10 April 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Theis TRUELSEN
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

97-16527 (E) 180697

/...

Annex

Statement issued by the Ministers of the Troika of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe at Copenhagen on 10 April 1997

The Ministers of the Troika of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Foreign Ministers of Poland, Switzerland and Denmark, met today in Copenhagen.

On the situation in Albania the Ministers expressed their support for an OSCE presence. They confirmed that the OSCE stands ready to provide a framework for coordinating the international effort and encouraged the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Dr. Vranitzky, to continue his work in this regard. They welcomed the speedy decision of the United Nations Security Council to authorize the deployment of a multinational protection force to Albania and expressed their support for those countries offering to participate in such a force.

The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of a timely conduct of the local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and of securing a sound financial basis for the OSCE preparation and conduct of them. They expressed their appreciation to former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Mrs. Agnelli, for accepting the tasks of Personal Representative in charge of fund raising. Recalling the paramount importance of those elections for the future peaceful development of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the commitment made at the Lisbon summit, they encouraged all OSCE member States to contribute to this effort.

The Ministers found that the situation in Belarus still gave grounds for serious concern. The Ministers expressed their expectation of a constructive Belarusian follow-up to the report from the European Union Fact-Finding Mission. They expressed their satisfaction that a visit by the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office to Minsk would now take place. They reiterated the willingness of OSCE to assist in facilitating democratic reform.

The Ministers agreed to continue the preparation of an enhanced OSCE presence in Eastern Slavonia (Croatia) after the departure of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium in order to ensure long-term monitoring of human rights.

In the context of the regional engagement of OSCE, the Ministers agreed that a general OSCE-budget reform was urgently needed to bring resources in line with operational decisions.

The Chairman-in-Office informed the Troika of his recent meetings with representatives of the Government and opposition of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Troika expressed concern over the lack of dialogue on democratic reform in Serbia and expressed support for the continued effort by the Chairman-in-Office to promote such a dialogue. The Ministers urged the Belgrade Government to cooperate with the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Max van der Stoel, in dealing with the Kosovo issue.

The Ministers discussed the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Ministers welcomed the recent declaration of the Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on promoting inter-ethnic trust and respect. They underlined the need for all parties to engage in a constructive inter-ethnic dialogue aiming at solutions based upon OSCE principles and full respect for the Constitution.